

Appln. No. 09/903,048
Amendment
Reply to FINAL Office Action dated July 15, 2003

Docket No. 1625-118

REMARKS

The foregoing amendments and these remarks are in response to the FINAL Office Action dated July 15, 2003. This amendment is timely filed.

At the time of the Office Action, claims 1-16 were pending. In the Office Action, claims 1-14 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a). The rejections are set out in more detail below.

I. Claim Rejections on Art

Claims 1, 5-9, 13 and 14 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over US Patent No. 6, 215, 206 to Chitayat ("Chitayat") in view of US Patent No. 6,047,461 to Miura et al. ("Miura") and US Patent No. 6,085,527 to Woollenweber et al. ("Woollenweber"). Claims 2 and 20 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Chitayat as modified by Woollenweber and Miura and further in view of US Patent No. 4,944,975 to Sheer. Claims 3, 4, 11, and 12 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Chitayat as modified by Woollenweber and Miura and further in view of Japanese reference 7-31113.

Claims 15 and 16 were objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but were indicated to be allowable if rewritten in independent form. Claims 1-14 are cancelled herein, and the subject matter of claims 1 and 9 have been incorporated into claims 15 and 16 respectively. Independent claims 15 and 16 are thus believed patentable and in condition for allowance.

II. Conclusion

Applicant has made every effort to present claims which distinguish over the prior art, and it is believed that all claims are in condition for allowance. Nevertheless, Applicant invites the Examiner to call the undersigned if it is believed that a telephonic

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interview would expedite the prosecution of the application to an allowance. In view of the foregoing remarks, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and prompt allowance of the pending claims.

Respectfully submitted,

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